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## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Child Care Providers  
**FROM:** Office of Child and Family Services  
**DATE:** September 30, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** Updated Guidance Regarding Child Care Licensing Exceptions Made during COVID-19

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Children's Licensing and Investigation Services issued certain waivers and exceptions to all child care providers during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic in recognition of the challenges it presented. As businesses and services across the State of Maine continue to reopen, the need for waivers and exceptions in these areas no longer exist.

**Your Child Care Licensing Specialist will work with you to determine a reasonable timeframe for compliance with Rules.**

- On March 16, 2020 guidance was issued offering flexibility under specific circumstances with the completion of background checks. On August 30, 2020, Maine implemented a comprehensive background check process which includes fingerprinting. Licensed child care programs cannot employ new staff members without the individual first completing a comprehensive background check and receiving verification in the form of a Letter of Eligibility.
- On April 13, 2020 guidance was issued that renewal of CPR/First Aid could be completed through an online only class. As more classes are now being offered, all CPR/First Aid renewals must be completed with the hands-on skills component.
- On April 13, 2020 guidance was issued that the requirement for current rabies vaccination certificates was temporarily waived during the State of Civil Emergency. As there is presently no delay in accessing pet care, current rabies vaccination certificates must be on file for all pets requiring vaccination.
- On April 13, 2020 guidance was issued that immunization records that were difficult to obtain or that had lapsed during the State of Civil Emergency would not be required. Medical providers have resumed providing routine medical care. Please work with families to obtain current and up to date immunization records for all enrolled children that are required to have documentation in their record.